

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice claims 11-13 and amend claims 1, 14 and 22 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of preparing the surface of a coated structure for the application of an overcoat, the method comprising:

cleaning the surface of the coat with cleaning solution; and

applying an oxidising agent to the cleaned surface, wherein the oxidizing agent is hydrogen peroxide, and the concentration of the hydrogen peroxide is in the range of about 1% to about 10% by weight.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning comprises soaking the surface of the coat with the cleaning solution.

3. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the soaking is for a time in the range from about 30 seconds to about 5 minutes.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning comprises agitating the surface of the coat with the cleaning solution.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the agitating is for a time in the range from about 30 seconds to about 20 minutes.

6. (original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the agitating is for a time in the range from about 2 minutes to about 10 minutes.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the agitating comprises agitating the surface with a brush.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning comprises soaking the surface of the coat before agitating the surface with the cleaning solution.

9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning solution is an alkaline cleaner.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning solution is a water-based cleaner.

11. (cancelled).

12. (cancelled).

13. (cancelled).

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the hydrogen peroxide is 3% by weight.

15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the applying the oxidising agent comprises spraying the oxidising agent onto the surface of the coat.

16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the coat is paint.

17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the coat is a primer.

18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the overcoat is paint.

19. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the structure is metallic.

20. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the structure is formed of a composite material.

21. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the structure is an aircraft or aerospace structure.

22. (currently amended) A method of applying an overcoat to the surface of a coated structure, the method comprising:

preparing the surface of the coat in accordance with the method of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1;

and

applying the overcoat.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) A coated structure wherein the structure has been treated in accordance with the method of claim 1.

25. (original) A coated structure according to claim 24, wherein the structure is an aircraft or aerospace structure.

26. (withdrawn) A cleaning kit for preparing the surface of the coat of a coated structure for the application of an overcoat, the kit comprising a cleaning solution and an oxidising agent.